

MAJOR GENERAL BARBARA G. FAST

US Army, Retired



MG Barbara Fast was one of the last members of the Women's Army Corps when she earned her direct commission in January 1976 as a Second Lieutenant. She subsequently attended the Military Intelligence (MI) Officer Basic Course and Tactical Course at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Her first assignment was Assistant Operations Officer for Training and Education, 66th MI Group, Munich, Germany. Soon thereafter she served as the Officer-in-Charge, Soviet Orientation Team, 5th MI Company. Before returning to the United States, CPT Fast held positions as the Assistant S3 (Operations), 18th MI Battalion, as well as Commander of the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 18th MI Battalion in Munich.

In February 1982, CPT Fast reported to Fort Hood, Texas, where she served as Chief of the Intelligence Production Section, then Adjutant in the 303rd MI Battalion. In June 1983, she was selected over numerous combat arms nominees to become the first female Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General, III Corps. In 1984, CPT Fast headed to Alexandria, Virginia, where she served first as the MI Professional Development Officer, and later as the MI Captain's Assignment Officer, MI Branch, and finally as the Special Operations Assignment Officer at the US Army Military Personnel Center.

In July 1987, MAJ Fast was assigned as the Chief of the Advanced Systems Section, J2, US European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. After two years, she became the Executive Officer of the 18th MI Battalion, Munich. While assigned to Munich, she also served as Deputy, and then Chief of the Intelligence Division, 66th MI Brigade. In 1992, LTC Fast assumed command of the 163rd MI Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. Following command, she became the first female Division G2, 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood. In 1996, COL Fast took on a third command position, this time for the 66th MI Group (Provisional) in Augsburg, Germany. Upon returning to the United States, she embarked on a new position as the Associate Deputy Director for Operations/Deputy Chief, Central Security Service, then as the first S1, Signals Intelligence Directorate, National Security Agency, Fort Meade, Maryland.

In 2001, BG Fast assumed duties as Director of Intelligence, J2, US European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, where she served with distinction for two years.

Following her time in Germany, she returned to Fort Huachuca, where she had started her career 25 years earlier. There she served as the Assistant Commandant of the US Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca. While in this position, she deployed to Iraq to become the first Director of Intelligence, C2, Combined Joint Task Force-7 and Multi-National Forces-Iraq, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. After returning from Iraq, MG Fast served as the Senior Intelligence Officer before assuming command of the US Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, where she served as the Commanding General for over two years.

MG Fast's final assignment was Deputy Director of the Army Capability Integration Center and G9, Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia. In July 2008, MG Fast retired from active duty in the US Army after having served honorably for over 32 years.

MG Fast's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

MG Fast was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2010.